A MESSAGE FROM KEVIN

“Strategic planning”—there are very few phrases uttered in higher education that can send chills through a student life professional’s spine like this one can. Why is that? I suspect most would say it has to do with a negative previous experience, some unwieldy process foisted upon us that resulted in a great deal of work and not much payoff. Or maybe it is the “don’t fence me in” mindset that can be prevalent among so many in our profession. Or it just may not be in our DNA—we do tend to be more intuitive than analytical in our chosen field of work. Regardless of the reason, we are wise to take advice from the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll’s book Alice in Wonderland. You may recall this exchange between Alice and the Cat:

Alice: “Which road do I take?”
The Cat: “Where do you want to go?”
Alice: “I don’t know.”
The Cat: “Then, it does not matter. If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.”

As a Division of Student Life, we certainly do not want to take just any old road. To the contrary, we aspire to be transformative agents in our students’ lives—to do so requires a great deal of intentionality on our part so that we can work in concert with our academic colleagues to shape the mind, heart, and soul of each Baylor Bear. This is only possible when we understand and are committed to the desired future direction of the university.

Beginning this fall, we have been called to join together and help define what Baylor University is to become. What an amazing opportunity. What a daunting responsibility. Are we up for the task? I believe we are. Under the leadership of Provost Elizabeth Davis and with the support of President Ken Starr, the Board of Regents, and the Executive Council, a process has been designed to cultivate, compile, analyze, and ultimately synthesize the themes upon which the next set of imperatives will be developed. For more information on this process go to http://www.baylor.edu/strategicplan/.

We will come together as a division to break bread and generate ideas for the strategic plan on January 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please plan to attend so that you can be part of this very important process. I look forward to working alongside you as we identify the road that leads to Baylor’s future.

Truly,
Kevin
**BRUNCH AT THE BOBO**

On Monday, January 10, 2011, Spiritual Life kicked off the new semester by hosting the Second Annual Brunch at the Bobo. Over 1,000 students came through the Bobo that morning to enjoy free brunch, reconnect with friends and Spiritual Life staff, and learn more about upcoming events and small group opportunities with Spiritual Life.

![Image of brunch at the Bobo](image)

**SING TICKETS**

All-University Sing Tickets went on sale to students, faculty, and staff January 20 at 10 a.m. at the SUB Ticket Office. The dates for Sing this year are February 17 (Club Night), 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26. Each show begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available to the general public on January 21 at 9 a.m. via the Ticket Office website or by calling 710-3210.

**BAYLOR ALUM TO KICK OFF ACADeMaY’S SPRING LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES**

Please come join us as the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement presents Dr. Ken Matthews in the first Leadership Lecture Series event of the semester! Dr. Matthews earned both his bachelor and doctoral degrees from Baylor University and is currently the superintendent of the School of Excellence in San Antonio, Texas. He will be interviewed by Ms. Ashley Weaver, the project coordinator for the Greater Waco Community Education Alliance. The lecture will be Monday, January 24, 2011 from 6-7 p.m. in Kayser Auditorium.

**HESA INTERVIEW PLACEMENT**

*Interview Placement for prospective students interested in the Higher Education & Student Affairs program will be taking place on February 17 and 18. The candidates will interview with potential supervisors for graduate apprenticeship assignments. If you would like more information about this event, please contact Laura Herrell at 710-7912 or laura_herrell@baylor.edu.*

**PRESENTATIONS**

Ramona Curtis, Director for Leader Development and Civic Engagement, presented *Purposeful, Passionate, Public Speaking: A Journey Through the Fears of Having a Voice* at the 26th Annual Texas Leadership Forum in Austin, Texas, on January 12-14. The forum was sponsored by the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute and featured CNN commentator Donna Brazile.

Chris Holmes, Jim Marsh, Bethany McCraw, Tim Powers, and Martha Lou Scott presented *Complex Cases and Challenges to Scope of Services—Where Are We Headed?* to a standing room only crowd on January 13, 2011, at the 2011 NASPA Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Prevention & Intervention Conference, in Miami, Florida.
WELCOME WEEKEND

New Student Programs hosted Welcome Weekend for new and transfer students on January 7–9. Students were able to participate in orientation sessions and many social events throughout the weekend including a traditions program, a Lady Bears basketball game, and a progressive dinner including several local Waco favorites. Forty new and transfer students participated in the program. Thanks to all who helped make Welcome Weekend 2011 a success!

WOMEN’S ISSUES GROUP

Along with a number of other group therapy opportunities, Emma Wood will be running a Women’s Issues group to address body image, confidence, gender roles, identity and self esteem on Baylor Campus. The group will help empower female Baylor students to be effective in their emotional, social and academic worlds. The group will meet beginning in February on Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. Please contact Emma Wood (emma_wood@baylor.edu) for more information.

McLANE STUDENT LIFE CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION
FEBRUARY 2011

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NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Anna Freeto
Registered Nurse
Health Center

Anna graduated with her bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 1998. Her professional background is in clinic and hospice nursing. Anna has lived in Waco for 13 years with her husband, Chuck, and her 7-year-old son, Nathan.

Courtney Williams
Administrative Assistant
Counseling Center

Courtney was born in Fort Worth. She attended Baylor and earned a bachelor of arts degree in Communications Specialist. She met her husband at Baylor; after living in Fort Worth for about a year, they moved back to Waco. They are now living in Hewitt with their dog, Gus, and their cat, Fern.

PANHELLENIC RECRUITMENT

Tam Dunn and her staff did a wonderful job managing Panhellenic recruitment, during which 540 bids were given to Baylor women. This year new member classes ranged from 62 to 71. Thanks to all those who supported this year’s recruitment!

CL CONFERENCE

In early January, Campus Living and Learning held a conference for all Community Leaders. The conference was a one-day event focusing on CL&L’s core values of spirituality, relationships, diversity, and academics. CL&L asks their Community Leaders to engage students in thoughtful, organic conversation around these topics, and this day was crafted to empower them to do just that. The conference speakers were composed of campus and community leaders who took the time to lecture and lead discussions about their areas of expertise. Speakers included Dr. Bracy Hill, who spoke about the importance of a liberal arts education, and Dr. Burt Burleson, who spoke on the need for spiritual reflection in the lives of our student leaders. Thank you to all of our campus partners who made this conference a meaningful experience for Baylor’s Community Leaders.

LEAD-LLC AND WISD

The Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement, in conjunction with Waco ISD, is continuing a partnership with seven elementary schools to work with our servant leadership courses that began in 2009. Each year we continue to strengthen this relationship by supporting early childhood development and public education while providing a forum for college students to engage in meaningful community service and learn about the social responsibilities of community leadership and citizenship. The elementary schools include Brook Avenue, Cedar Ridge, Dean Highlands, JH Hines, Mountainview, Sul Ross and West Avenue.

ACPA WEBINAR:
USING THE CAS STANDARDS FOR PROGRAM REVIEW & ASSESSMENT

Wednesday, January 26 12 noon—1 p.m., SLC 314
Bring your lunch and watch this valuable webinar!
RSVP to Martha_Lou_Scott@baylor.edu.

ACPA’s description: “As student affairs professionals we strive to meet the needs of our students. This commitment, coupled with calls of accountability urge us to evaluate those programs and services to demonstrate the impact but also learn how we can improve them. The standards developed by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) are valuable tools for this form of assessment. In this session participants will learn about the standards and how to use them in practice.”

GOT NEWS?

If you have anything to contribute to the February issue of the Student Life Newsletter, please send it to Laura Herrell (laura_herrell@baylor.edu). This is your opportunity to update the division on what your department has been doing, so take advantage of it as much as possible!